

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA  
REGULAR MEETING  
April 22, 2008

The Board of County Commissioners of Leon County, Florida, met in regular session at 3:00 p.m. with Chairman Sauls presiding. Present were Commissioners DePuy, Thaell, Rackleff, Dailey, Desloge and Proctor. Also present were County Administrator Parwez Alam, County Attorney Herb Thiele, Finance Director David Reid and Board Secretary Rebecca Vause.

Invocation was provided by Commissioner Dailey who then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Awards and Presentations**

- Commissioner Thaell recognized and presented Resolutions to the Action Summit Essay Contest Winners:
  - Tishian Mahmud, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade, Hawks Rise Elementary School
  - Kaitlin Duchene, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade, Swift Creek Middle SchoolIn addition, contest winners also received a \$100.00 check and a one year family membership to the Mary Brogan Arts and Science Museum
- Commissioner Thaell presented a Resolution to Joseph S. O'Shea recognizing him as an Outstanding Citizen of Leon County for his scholarship, leadership, community involvement and many accomplishments and achievements. Mr. O'Shea is President of FSU Student Government and a Rhodes Scholar.
- Commissioner Dailey presented a Resolution to the 2007/08 North Florida Christian School Girl's Basketball Team recognizing them as State Champions. Head Coach Aaron Krause accepted the Resolution on behalf of the team.
- Chairman Sauls presented a Resolution designating April 22, 2008 as "Earth Day" to County Recycling Coordinator, Cyndy Brantley.

**Consent**

Commissioner Desloge moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Dailey to approve the following Consent Agenda with the exception of Item #6, which was pulled for discussion and Item #14, which was removed from the Agenda. The motion carried 6-0 (Commissioner Proctor out of Chambers).

- 1. Approval of Minutes: March 11, 2008 Budget Workshop and March 11, 2008 Regular Meeting**

The Board approved Option 1: Approve the minutes of the March 11, 2008 Budget Workshop and the March 11, 2008 Regular Meeting

2. **Approval of Payment of Bills and Vouchers Submitted for April 22, 2008, and Pre-Approval of Payments of Bills and Vouchers for the Period of April 23 through May 12, 2008: \$2,395,574.00**

The Board approved Option 1: Approve Payment of Bills and Vouchers Submitted for April 22, 2008, and Pre-Approve Payments of Bills and Vouchers for the Period of April 23 through May 12, 2008.  
\$2,395,574.00

3. **Approval of Sheriff's Request for Utilization of Law Enforcement Trust Fund Monies**

The Board approved Option 1: Approve the transfer of \$30,720 from the Law Enforcement Trust Fund to the Sheriff's Office General Operating budget for the funding of the requested programs.

4. **Request to Schedule the First and Only Public Hearing to Adopt a Proposed Ordinance Amending Chapter 11, Article XVII, Section 11-531 of the Code of Laws of Leon County, entitled "Creating of a Primary Health Care Implementation Advisory Board" for Tuesday, May 13, 2008 at 6:00 p.m.**

The Board approved Option 1: Schedule the first and only public hearing to adopt a proposed Ordinance amending Chapter 11, Article XVII, Section 11-531 of the Code of Laws of Leon County, entitled "Creation of Health Care Advisory Board" for Tuesday, May 13, 2008, at 6:00 p.m.

5. **Request to Schedule the First and Only Public Hearing to Adopt a Proposed Ordinance Amending Chapter 8, Article V, of the Code of Laws of Leon County, entitled "Affordable Housing Assistance" for Tuesday, May 13, 2008 at 6:00 p.m.**

The Board approved Option 1: Schedule the first and only public hearing to adopt a proposed Ordinance amending Chapter 8, Article V, of the Code of Laws of Leon County, entitled "Affordable Housing Assistance" for Tuesday, May 13, 2008 at 6:00 p.m.

6. **Approval of the State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) Local Housing Assistance Plan and the Department of Community Affairs Community Development Block Grant Housing Assistance Plan for Fiscal Years 2008-2011**

Commissioner Rackleff asked that this item be pulled from the Consent Agenda.

County Administrator Alam explained that SHIP is a down payment assistance program. He shared that the main change in the Plan is the increase in the maximum purchase price from \$166,000 to \$204,000. This new amount is consistent with the City of Tallahassee and the increase has been recommended by the U.S. Department of Treasury. He added that the Plan has been reviewed and approved by the Housing Finance Authority.

Commissioner Rackleff stated that he pulled the item because he was concerned about the possibility of individuals purchasing houses that they cannot afford. He opined that the \$204,000 purchase price is too high. He suggested that the Board remember 1) the mission of the program is to encourage the purchase of truly affordable housing and help people buy them and 2) the price of homes are coming down. Commissioner Rackleff added that he wanted to ensure that the maximum number of potential home buyers possible can be assisted; the lower the purchase price the more individuals that can be served.

*Commissioner Rackleff moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Thaelle to approve Option 3: Do not approve the State Housing Initiatives Partnership Local Housing Assistance Plan and the Department of Community Affairs Community Development Block Grant Housing Assistance Plan for Fiscal Years 2008-2011.*

Commissioner Thaelle stated his concern with the motion is that maintaining the maximum purchase price of \$166,000 could limit the availability of homes to purchase. He added that the program allows for the purchase of lower priced homes, up to a maximum of \$204,000. Commissioner Thaelle added that he is uncomfortable changing the amount as the local housing market has not seen the decline that has been experienced in other areas.

County Administrator Alam explained that Board approval is needed for the Plan (options 1 & 2), although changes could be made with regard to the maximum purchase price.

Commissioner Rackleff noted his concern over the foreclosure situation being experienced by home owners and added that he is concerned about providing assistance to individuals to purchase homes they cannot truly afford.

Patrick Casserleigh, Acting Director of Health & Human Services, advised that the Department of Treasury has determined that the medium house

value for Leon County is \$227,000. He mentioned that raising the maximum purchase price from \$166,000 to \$204,000 will allow people who are applying for the program the opportunity to purchase a home of higher value. Mr. Casserleigh added that the actual foreclosure rate for these type loans is incredibly low, 1%.

*Commissioner Thaell withdrew his second of motion.*

*Commissioner Thaell moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Desloge, to approve Options 1 and 2: 1) Approve the State Housing Initiative Partnership Local Housing Assistance Plan and the Department of Community Affairs Community Development Block Grant Housing Assistance Plan for Fiscal Years 2008-2011 and 2) Approve the associated Resolution. The motion carried 5-1 (Commissioner Rackleffan opposition and Commissioner Proctor out of Chambers)*

**7. Approval of an Interagency Agreement Between Tallahassee Community College and Leon County for the Florida Volunteer Administration Certificate Training Program**

The Board approved Options 1 & 2: 1) Approve the Interagency Agreement between Tallahassee Community College and Leon County for the Florida Volunteer Administration Certificate Training Program, and authorize the chairman to execute, and 2) Approve the Resolution and associated Budget Amendment Request.

**8. Approval to Rename Lake Munson Preserve to Gil Waters Preserve**

The Board approved Option 1: Approve the renaming of Lake Munson Preserve to Gil Waters Preserve.

**9. Approval for a Time Extension for Completion of the Improvements to Lakes Anna, Carolyn, and Jeff in Accordance with a Settlement Agreement**

The Board approved Option 1: Approve the Request for a Five Month Time Extension for Completion of the Improvements to Lakes Anna, Carolyn and Jeff in accordance with a Settlement Agreement Dated May 11, 2004.

**Citizens to be Heard on Non-Agendaed Items (3-minute limit; non-discussion by Commission):**

No speakers

**General Business**

**10. Acceptance of the Final Report for the Leon County Climate Action Summit**

County Administrator Alam reported that the Item seeks acceptance of the final report for the Leon County Climate Action Summit. He noted that the report reflects:

- total revenues from sponsorships and registrations amounted to \$41,400 (does not include Leon County's contribution of \$25,000);
- in-kind contribution of almost \$10,000 in advertising by the Tallahassee Democrat;
- 34 exhibitors, and
- over 400 participants

Commissioner Thaell thanked the Board for its support. He requests that unexpended funds from the Summit be returned to the general fund and be earmarked to offset expenses associated with ICLE milestones.

*Commissioner Thaell moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Rackleff to approve Options 1 & 2: 1) Accept the final report on the Leon County Climate Action Summit, and approve the Resolution and associated Budget Amendment Request; and 2) Direct staff to earmark the remaining revenues in the amount of \$26,099 for projects specific toward achieving additional green and sustainable initiatives. Motion carried 6-0 (Commissioner Proctor out of Chambers).*

Chairman Sauls presented a framed memento of the Climate Action Summit to Commissioner Thaell.

**11. Acceptance of the FY 2008 Mid-Year Financial Report**

County Administrator Alam introduced the Item and Assistant County Administrator Rosenzweig presented details of the Mid-Year Financial Report.

Mr. Rosenzweig provided the following highlights from the report:

- 1) Preliminary FY 2009 Revenue Estimates
  - Total revenues for FY 08 are \$64,734,068; FY 09 preliminary budget revenues are \$62,264,340, a decrease of 11.2%;
  - property tax numbers are unknown, awaiting outcome of the legislative session;
  - In addition to property tax reform, anticipate a \$1.1 million shortfall in state shared sales tax, interest earnings, etc. ;

- decline in gas tax revenue estimated at 10%;
  - non general revenue supported activities, i.e., ambulance, building, permit fees & sales tax generally healthy, and
  - anticipate a downturn in overall solid waste fees.
- 2) Summary of Fund Balance and Retained Earnings (unaudited)
- Policy states should have no less than 15%, no more than 30% in the bank at any time; expect to have approximately \$31 million, or 25%, at end of the year; \$10 to \$12 million will be allocated toward funding joint dispatch operation.
- 3) Community Economic Profile
- decrease in the number of individuals in government jobs (38.9% in 1997 to 35.5% in 2007), which indicates that the overall economy in the County has become more diverse.
- 4) Comparative Data (Leon vs. like size counties)
- ranks the lowest for dollars spent per county resident (\$901.00), and
  - has an extremely low number of employees doing a lot of work; 6.7 employees for every thousand County residents;
- Comparative Data (statewide)
- Leon County ranks fifth lowest in budget per capita, and
  - Leon County ranks sixth lowest in staffing ratio per capita (6.7)

Commissioner Rackleff acknowledged the anticipated decrease in gas tax revenue of approximately 10%.

Commissioner Desloge commented that the County's overall total expenditures are under budget and "right on track".

*Commissioner Dailey moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Desloge to approve Option 1: Accept the FY 2008 Mid-Year Financial Report. Motion carried 6-0 (Commissioner Proctor out of Chambers).*

**12. Adoption of Revisions to Procedures for the Five-Year Schedule of Capital Improvements Contained Within the Capital Improvements Element (CIE) of the Comprehensive Plan**

County Administrator Alam reported that adoption of the Item would enable the County to meet the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) requirement that the CIE be approved at the same time that the Board approves the capital budget.

Commissioner Rackleff moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Desloge to approve Option 1: Adopt revisions to procedures for the Five-Year Schedule of Capital Improvements contained within the Capital Improvements Element of the Comprehensive Plan during the County budget approval process. Motion carried 6-0 (Commissioner Proctor out of Chambers)

**13. Authorization to Solicit an Invitation to Negotiate for Class III Solid Waste Recycling Services.**

County Administrator Alam explained that the City of Tallahassee and Wakulla County have indicated an interest in being a party to the negotiations; staff recommends they be invited to participate.

Commissioner Dailey moved, duly seconded by Commissioner DeBuy to approve Options 1 & 2: 1) Authorize solicitation of an Invitation to Negotiate for long-term Class III Solid Waste Management Services, and 2) Direct staff to invite the City of Tallahassee and Wakulla County to participate in the negotiations. The motion carried unanimously 7-0.

**14. Approval of Agreement Awarding Bid to Dixie Grading & Paving, Inc. in the Amount of \$587,526 for the Intersection Improvements at Bradfordville and Centerville Roads and at Bradfordville and Velda Dairy Roads**

Item #14 is removed from the agenda due to a bid protest. It will be brought back before the Board at the appropriate time.

**15. Expirations, Vacancies and Appointments to: Bradfordville Historic Schoolhouse Focus Group, Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency Citizens Advisory Committee, Fort Braden Community Center Focus Group, GEM Citizens User Group, Senior Outreach Advisory Committee, and Woodville Community Center Focus Group.**

The following appointments were made:

- **Bradfordville Historic Schoolhouse Focus Group:**
  - Commissioner Dailey appointed Michael Carducci
- **Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency (CRTPA) Citizens Advisory Committee:**
  - Commissioner Desloge continued the appointment
- **Fort Braden Community Center Focus Group:**
  - Commissioner Desloge appointed continued the appointment

- Commissioner Rackleff appointed continued the appointment
- Commissioner Sauls continued the appointment
- Commissioner Thael reappointed Sam Bruce
- **GEM Citizens User Group:**
  - Commissioner Dailey continued the appointment
- **Senior Outreach Advisory Committee:**
  - Commissioner Proctor continued the appointment
- **Woodville Community Center Focus Group:**
  - Commissioner Dailey appointed Dale Robinson
  - Commissioner DePuy appointed Mattie Mobley
  - Commissioner Desloge: Bennie Woodlieff
  - Commissioner Proctor: Antoinette Thompson
  - Commissioner Rackleff appointed Mary Johnson
  - Chairman Sauls appointed Chiquita Williams
  - Commissioner Thael continued the appointment

**Citizens to Be Heard on Non-Agendaed Items (3-minute limit)**

No speakers

**County Administrator (Parwez Alam)**

- Announced that the Jackson View Park Grand Opening ceremony will be held Thursday, April 24, 2008, at 10:00 a.m.
- The Council of Neighborhood Associations (CONA) Annual Meeting and Awards Reception will be held May 12, 2008 at 6:00 p.m. in the R.A. Gray Building

**Discussion Items by Commissioners**

**Commissioner DePuy**

**Commissioner Dailey**

- Thanked staff for efforts in the opening of Jackson View Park in District 3.

**Commissioner Desloge**

- Requested a Resolution recognizing Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Week May 18-24, 2008.
- Provided a brief report on Fire Services and EMS negotiations and noted that the process has been positive and the issue well received. He complimented staff that has assisted in project.

**Commissioner Rackleff**

- Requested a Resolution honoring the late Marine Corporal Julian Woodall to be presented to his family at a dedication of a fountain at Sail High School on May 27, 2008.
- *Commissioner Rackleff moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Dailey, to authorize the Board to send a letter to Congressman Allen Boyd requesting Amtrak restore its train service to New Orleans. The motion carried unanimously 7-0.*
- Requested a Resolution for the Green Club of Lincoln High School who has been very active in promoting different strategies to cut down on greenhouse gases.
- Provided a sample of Selenium as an example of what Cypress Systems, Inc. manufactures.

### **Commissioner Thaeil**

- Remarked that funding for the Cypress Systems project as presented was a one-third funding split with the County, City (\$900,000 each) and Innovation Park (providing land). He noted that the City Commission voted to support the project, but in a lesser amount of \$500,000. He inquired if the Board would be asked to provide additional funds. Mr. Alam stated that action taken by the Board was to approve \$900,000 for the project and was not subject to City's approval.
  - Commissioner Sauls raised the issue of the City not meeting the one-third funding partnership and how that affects the distribution of revenues collected.
  - Commissioner Desloge noted that the project was brought to the Board as a proposal and details have not been finalized. He stated his expectancy that if the County funds at a higher level, a higher level of return would be expected.
  - The Board asked that staff provide a report as to how the City's lower contribution affects the project.
  - Commissioner Rackleff stated that he sent an e-mail to Beth Kirkland, Economic Development Council, asking for information on the project and Cypress Systems role in the project. He expressed concern that the project has not been thought through very well and noted that no market or feasibility study had been done. He advised that he will forward a copy of the e-mail to Ms. Kirkland to each commissioner.
- Congratulated Wakulla County's initiative in hosting City and County Commissions to address protection of Wakulla Springs and their commitment in following through to expand the Spring shed Protection Zone. He asked that the County make the same commitment. *Commissioner Thaeil moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Proctor, to direct staff to bring an agenda item on advanced septic tank issue. The motion carried unanimously 7-0.*

### Commissioner Proctor

- Requested an update on TABOR actions.
  - Ken Morris, Intergovernmental Relations Coordinator, reported that the Taxation and Budget Reform Commission (TBRC) did not approve TABOR, but the issue has now been brought up in the House. Senate leaders have indicated they have no interest in pursuing the issue. He opined that the issue will not pass this year.
- Inquired if a Workshop date has been established to meet with the Water Resources Committee and allow them to make their report. Commissioner Proctor added that they had recommendations with regard to what the Environmental Protection Zone for Wakulla Springs could look like for Leon County. Staff noted they will follow-up on the matter and advise.
- *Commissioner Proctor moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Thaell, to expand the Science Advisory Committee's purpose to include focus on "green" initiatives and climate protection. The motion carried unanimously 7-0.*
- *Commissioner Proctor moved that staff bring back a review to consider that the Board meets once a month or once every three weeks. The motion failed for lack of a second.*
- Requested Resolutions of farewell for Rev. John Green and Rev. Calvin McFadden.
- Expressed a need to understand better the scope, focus and role of the Leon County Health Department within the community and how health issues affecting and impacting the community are being integrated into their operation.

*Commissioner Proctor moved, duly seconded by Commissioner Dailey requesting a comprehensive workshop on the duties and responsibilities of the Leon County Health Department and its operations. The motion carried unanimously 7-0.*

  - Commissioner Desloge asked if the motion could be expanded to include other health care providers, i.e., WeCare, Neighborhood Services, Bond Clinic, etc
  - Commissioner Proctor asserted his concern over the infant mortality and STD crisis and how the health department is responding to this need.
  - Further discussion was held on the County's relationship with the health department as compared to other providers.
  - County Administrator Alam indicated that the workshop could include several topics related to the health department and its relationship with other health organizations.

- Requested a Resolution honoring the Lincoln High School Black History Brain Bowl Team who won first place in the statewide history and cultural competition on April 11, 2008.

**Chairman Sauls**

- Requested a Resolution for Christopher Hook, Volunteer of the Year, on the May 13, 2008 Agenda. Mr. Hook will represent Leon County in June at the prestigious 2008 Jefferson Awards for Public Service Banquet in Washington, D.C.

**Adjourn**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jane G. Sauls  
Chairman

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bob Inzer  
Clerk of the Circuit Court

**DRAFT**